

GEOARCHAEOLOGY OF WWII AIRCRAFT IN NEW MEXICO, USA

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INTRODUCTION

A large number of aircraft crashes occurred in NM during WWII (1941-1945)
Located throughout the state in different geologic settings





GEOLOGY & WWII AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS

- Crash site location
 - Mountains
 - Weather
 - Instruments
 - Training
 - Pilot error
 - Airfield location
 - Base of mountain front
 - Adjacent terrane



GEOLOGY & WWII AIRCRAFT INCIDENTS

Preservation
 – Topography
 – Climate

ROLLE ROYCI WARDEN XX172 CYL PRICINES UNIDER CARRIERS



RAINING PLANES

US National Archives

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VOLUME OF LOSS

Aiicrew losses

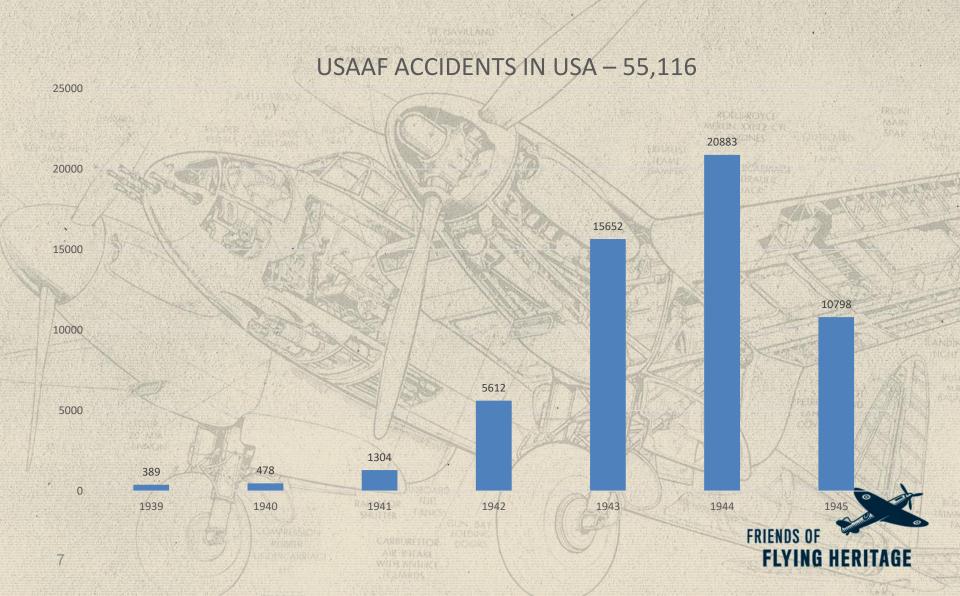
- USAAF 52,173 deaths KIA, 35,396 other
- USN 3,618 KIA, 8,515 other

Plane losses

USA - >4,500 planes lost in Pacific War



USAAF AICRAFT ACCIDENTS IN USA



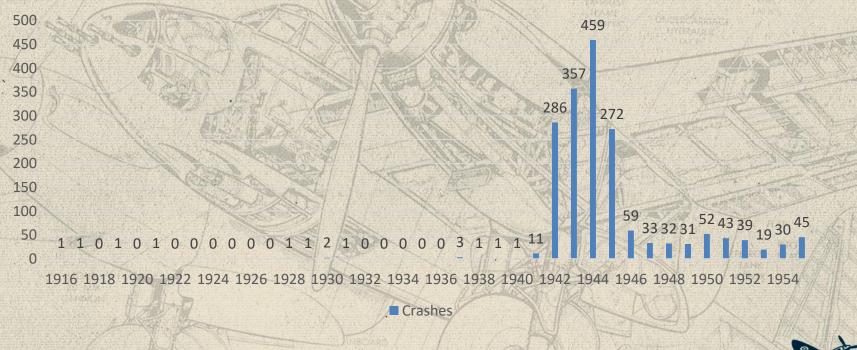
TRAINING ACCIDENTS IN USA

	CHANNE TWEAT		
見たいに見たいいなど	Year	USAAF Wrecks in USA	Fatalities
- HUNSSE	1939	86	52
21/2	1940	100	90
The state	1941	228	199
	1942	1,259	1,096
M.S.A.	1943	3,854	4,209
	1944	5,387	5,616
1	1945	3,264	3,799
	TOTAL	14,197	15,041



AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN NEW MEXICO

Aircraft Crashes in New Mexico, USA





WWII AIR BASES IN NM

- After Pearl Harbor, need several thousand air crew trained per month
- Training all over US
- CA-AZ-NM-TX preferred
 - Climate: flying days
 - Geology
 - Only locally mountainous
 - High altitude
 - Broad analogy to Pacific: mountain "islands"?



WWII AIR BASES IN NM

- Second Air Force
 - Alamogordo AAF
 - Clovis AAF
 Kirtland AAF
- Army Air Forces Training Command
 - Carlsbad AAF
 - Deming AAF
 - Fort Sumner AAF
 - Hobbs AAF
 - Roswell AAF



AIRFIELD ACCIDENTS

- Large number of largely non-fatal (and some fatal) crashes occurred at/near airfields
- 115 incidents from 1942-1945
 at Alamogordo Army Air Field

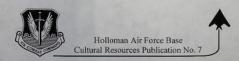


The Legacy of World War II Aircraft Training Accidents at Alamogordo Army Air Field, New Mexico

> by Matthew Vandiver and William B. Boehm

With a Contribution by Martyn D. Tagg





Trail Peak B-24

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LEVATOR MIXGE Vodre Control Norn Vound Line At Rolling Rad al Mheel Door Actuating Lin THE LAST FLIGHT of LIBERATOR 41-1133

William F. Cass

The Lives, Times, Training & Loss Of The Bomber Crew Which Crashed On Trail Peak At Philmont Scout Ranch VATOR HUSSE * METAL STABILIZERS ELAGE JOINT AUST HOOD ELAGE JOINT AUST HOOD EECOLER DOOR EFCOLER DOOR EFCOLER DOOR EFTY STRAP AL PLATES FOOT GU EUGATED FLOORBO PAREL ACCESS FAIL

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FRIENDS OF

Trail Peak B-24

- April 22nd 1942
- B-24D Liberator
- Bad weather, one engine off.....
 Trail Peak near Cimarron Philmont Scout

Recent letter le

Trail Peak B-24



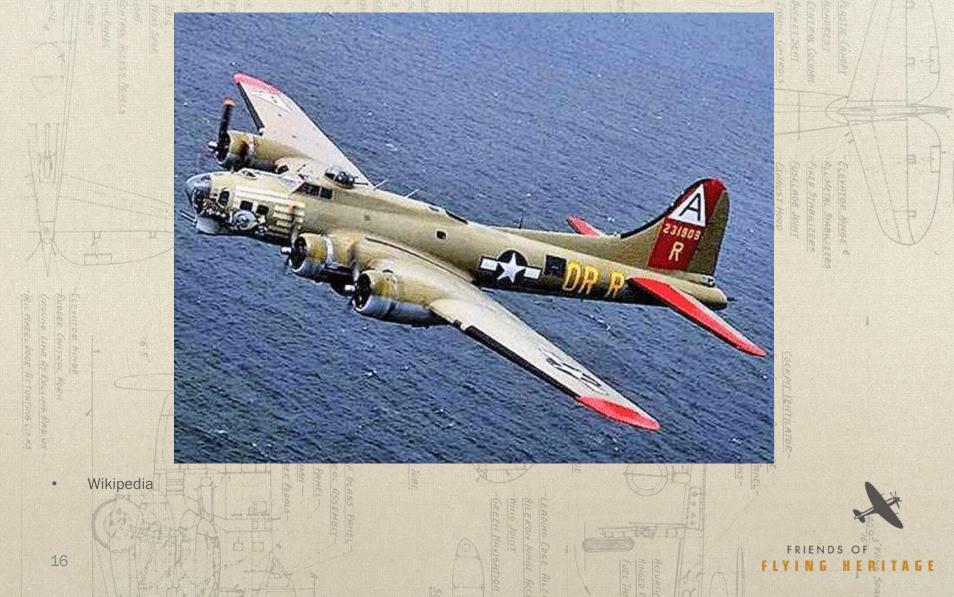


FRIENDS OF

https://www.summitpost.org/trail-peak-nm/583413 https://line.17qq.com/articles/cqtwcwtcx.html

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North Baldy Peak B-17



North Baldy Peak B-17

October 15th 1942
B-17E Flying Fortress
Night flight training
Struck North Baldy Peak near Magdalena
75 feet below summit

• Pilot error?

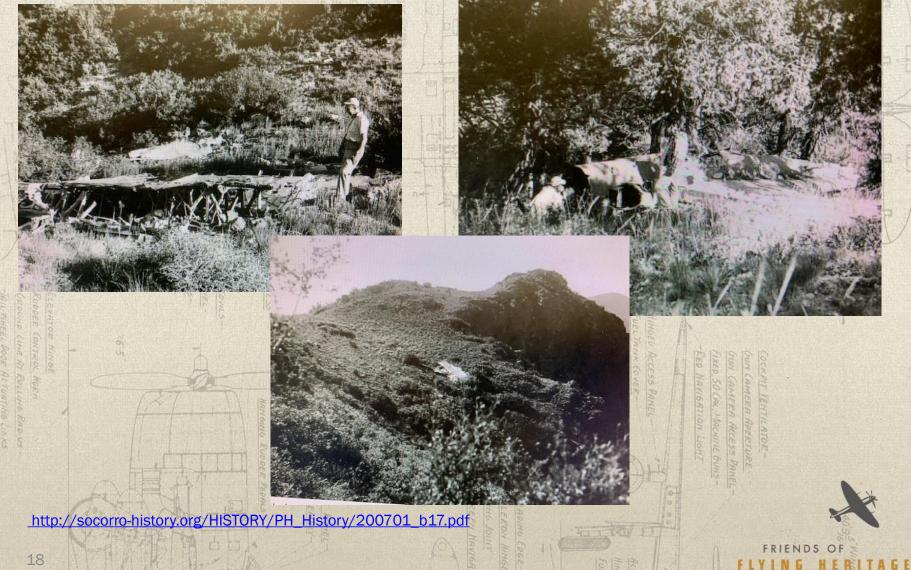
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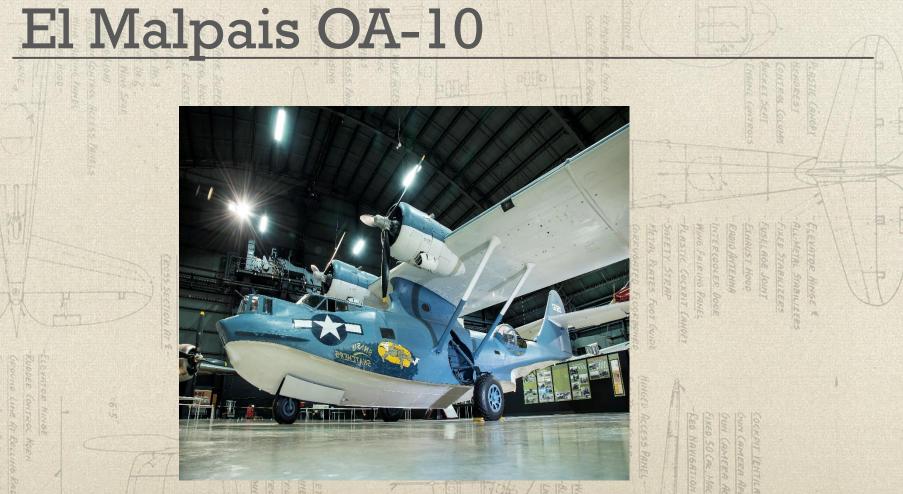
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North Baldy Peak B-17





FRIENDS OF

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National Museum of USAF

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El Malpais OA-10

• August 1st, 1945

engine smoke

failure)

- USAAF Consolidated OA-10 (Army name for Navy PBY-5A Catalina flying boat)
- P-51 Mustang near Tucumcari reports

EVATOR MINGE UDDER CONTO NORM ROUTE LINE (TRELLING CAD IL-WHEEL DOOR ACTUATING LIN

Crashed in El Malpais NM
Feathered one propeller (indicating engine



El Malpais OA-10



FRIENDS OF RITAGE



Other losses

- Crashes in diverse terranes all around NM Great Plains, Rio Grande Rift etc.
- Small number of crashes were terrane independent
 - aircraft disintegrated at altitude
 - B-17F east of Rio en Medio on January 1st, 1943
 - B-17E on August 23rd 1942 near Las Cruces
 - Mid-air collisions
 - Cessna AT-17 and an AT-17B on January 10th 1943 near Roswell



SUMMARY

- About 1400 aircraft crashes in NM 1941-1945
- Geologic factors influence:
 - -Location
 - -preservation
- Large dataset for analysis and provide model

